Withdrawal of user charges

*335. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI:
KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Members of Parliament have requested Government to withdraw the *'anti-people'* order on user charges levied by AIIMS;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to withdraw the order as this would be a big relief to the poor patients; and

(c) by when the order is expected to be finally withdrawn?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (c) The All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, rationalized the charges for diagnostic and other procedures in November, 2005, after over 10 years of its introduction. Despite the rationalization, the poor and needy patients continue to be provided free treatment. The patients admitted in emergency have always been given free treatment irrespective of economic status. However, some Members of Parliament have requested the Government to withdraw the user charges levied by AIIMS.

The Institute Body of the AIIMS, at its meeting held on 5th July, 2006, considered the issue and decided to restore the user charges to *status quo* as prevalent prior to November, 2005. The Institute has restored the user charges as was prevalent prior to November, 2005, on 10.8.2006.

Security arrangements in long distance trains

†*336. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are many loopholes in the security arrangements for the passengers in the trains particularly in the long distance trains;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.